



Christmas Fayre

RAF Honington invites you to their Christmas Fayre 10.00 to 15.00 **Friday 20th November** in their Community Centre on the Base – entry £2. There will be Father Christmas's Grotto, stalls selling gifts, cards, crafts, sweets, and much more. All proceeds raised will be donated to the RAF Benevolent Fund and SSAFA, who supports the families of our forces through difficult times. Please come – it will be great fun!

From Nick Turk, Community Relations Officer

"Getting Ready for Winter"

The Patient's Association of Ixworth Surgery is holding a seminar on the **25th November** at 14.00 in Sapiston Village Hall.

We have invited a speaker from West Suffolk Hospital Physiotherapy Department to talk about simple exercises for basic fitness, as well as footwear and walking aids during inclement weather.

From Jo Kemp, Ixworth Surgery

A Christmas Carol

The Spinning Wheel Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol" will be at Sapiston Village Hall on the **11th December**.

Tickets can be purchased on the door but to avoid disappointment it will be **ESSENTIAL** to leave a note of your names/numbers in the letter-box in the Hall. Adults £9.50 (over 65 years and young people under 18 years £7.50).

Tinsel Crazy

Christmas is the time when the whole world goes tinsel crazy. In every home there is likely to be at least some symbol to remind us of the reason for the season: there may be a tree of some sort, reflecting the pagan idea of bringing new life into the home in the middle of winter, fairy lights with the same basic idea, a crib scene or a tableau of the nativity, representing one of the first examples of Christian drama introduced by St Francis of Assisi in the early thirteenth century.

We'll sing carols, most of them from the nineteenth century European traditions, and feast on rich meats and cakes, as folk have done for centuries. It does not really matter that the birth of Jesus probably took place many weeks before the 25th of December, but we hold this day as his "official" birthday without so much as a backward thought, as we always have done.

As the clergy person within the team with pastoral oversight for Troston, I wish you a very Happy Christmas, but I do appreciate that for some, Christmas will be a difficult time.

Whatever your Christmas brings, I pray that you will never let the things which seem impossible from a human point of view discourage you from trying to understand what Jesus said and promised and applying them to your own life. Rather than cursing the darkness for being dark, light a candle wherever you can and appreciate its light.

From Rev Tony Redman

Preparations for the Coming Winter

During recent winters the help we received from residents of Troston in spreading salt/grit and clearing snow and ice from dangerous corners was greatly appreciated. Please let your Parish Clerk know if you are a regular volunteer and you will be covered under the terms of the County Council's insurances for public liabilities.

From Steve Boor, Highways Manager

Village Hall

Why not book our lovely Village Hall for your Christmas family get-together? There's a fully equipped kitchen and we've had the outside newly painted for you - so it's looking really smart! Of course, we will be decorating it for the festive season, at the beginning of December, too! Just call me on 269467 or send an e-mail sandsbishop@btinternet.com

Apart from ad hoc private events like family celebrations, in particular weddings, there are also regular Village events in the Hall. For example: the Social Club's Pop-Up-Pub, Quiz Night and Curry Evening - there's also the Soup Lunch on Tuesdays, the Bowls Club on the first and third Thursday of every month, the WI Meetings on the second Wednesday of every month, and Cafe Church the last Sunday of every month. The Walking Group meet at the Village Hall the fourth Wednesday of the month.

There are also traditional fete games for hire like Splat the Rat, Stocks, Skittles, Limbo, Tin Can Alley, Mini Golf, the Human Fruit Machine, Bottle Up, and Hook a Duck. Please ring me for details.

You might like to know that we have a new chair-person: Mrs. Brenda Burrige. The other committee members remain the same with our previous chair-person, Val Holden, joining the others as a committee member. Thank you Val for all your work in steering the Committee and ensuring the Hall is a great asset to the Village!

From Sue Bishop

Village Lottery

Lucky winners in the October draw were Zachery Jamie, David Corrie, and Maureen Irwin. The next draw will be at the Pop-Up-Pub at the end of this month.

After all the prizes have been distributed, the Lottery has raised enough money to purchase table tennis equipment and start a club in the Village Hall.

From Richard Walker, Parish Councillor

The Bull Site

By way of an update: I am advised that the small items of archaeology found are unlikely to require us completing any further digging. I received an e-mail from our archaeologist this week and he is just awaiting confirmation from the Borough Planners.

I have spoken to the engineer who completed the contamination testing. The results are now back from the laboratory and we are expecting a report next week. The final sign-offs on these various areas should be complete by the end of the month – and contracts can be exchanged.

According to the Estate Agent, I understand a firm offer has been accepted to buy the pub subject to contract. The

refurbishment will be a separate project done by another contractor.

From Simon Burgess, Burgess Homes

Repairs to Heath Road?

I took a look at Heath Road yesterday. The main section of the byway from the Base to the houses is in relatively good condition. I have asked my contractor to scrape the surface which is turn will fill any potholes that are starting to form. There doesn't appear to be any additional activity along the route to the sewage works.

However, the section in front of the houses isn't fairing as well. Potholes have formed on this but it does give the impression this section is only really used by the farmer and nearby residents. The heavy vehicles used to carry the harvest have not helped. *(It is estimated that some 6,000 tonnes has passed along this stretch to the main road in the past three years).* I will ask our contractor to take a look and give me a cost for the repair.

The section I am more concerned about is the U6337, from New Road to the start of the Byway and the Restricted Byway. This has a number of significantly deep potholes and there is also a vast amount of mud. The Restricted Byway is an access track for Troston Farms. The U-road is the responsibility of the Highways Department – and they will be going to the site this week to mark the potholes up, and then issue an order to our contractors to get these repaired. I would hope that this will be completed within the next couple of weeks.

From Claire Dickson, Area Rights of Way Officer

Troston Poor's Estate

Over the past two years two of our long serving Trustees resigned because of ill health and Mr Len (Jack) Barnard died in March. Jack had served as a trustee since 1995 and had audited the Trust's annual accounts since 1996, for which we have been extremely grateful. The Rev Doug Neupert has recently resigned because of ill-health and we thank him for his input and send our best wishes. Mr Doug Godfrey FCCA, of Honington, kindly offered to audit the 2014/15 annual accounts and also for future years.

Resulting from the above the Rev Tony Redman has been invited and accepted to serve as a Trustee, representing the Church, and the Parish Council have also been invited to put forward two representatives.

*From Vic Simmonds,
Chairman/treasurer/secretary*

Woman's Institute News

Troston WI enjoyed their 40th Anniversary celebration at our October meeting with three founder members in attendance. Husbands were invited and our speaker was Peter Hesketh who told us about going around the world on containerships. Celebration cake was cut by the President and sparkling wine and cheese were enjoyed by all. We were also delighted to welcome three new members.

11th November meeting our speaker will be Malcolm Crowe of Capricorn Crafts, who will talk about 'The Work of a Toymaker, including string puppets, wooden toys, games and puzzles' There will be a chance to buy gifts for Christmas. We will also be trying out a new fundraising idea of having a Trading Stall.

7th December – Carol Concert, St. Mary's Church, BSE at 7.30pm. Tickets £2

9th December - there will be a change to our programme as we will be having a demo by Claire from Honington Camp Hairdressing Salon, of Body Shop products. Items available for sale - possible Xmas presents? There will be mulled wine, Xmas cake and Xmas verses to enjoy.

Friday 18th December – Carol Singing in aid of Second Chance Stroke Fund. All welcome.

We are always pleased to welcome new faces to our meetings, so do come along and see whether the WI is for you. For further information please contact our President: Jenny Simmonds on 01359 269219 or Secretary: Sonia Farnaby on 01359 268667.

From Jenny Simmonds

Village Social Club

Would you be interested in starting a French Conversation Group? Completely informal – all levels welcome. To express an interest and find out more details please call 269467.

The quiz night on the 2nd October was a great success. Thanks to Jane for the excellent food and to David and Sonia for the organisation.

We had the usual Pop Up Pub or social get together on the 30 October. This is held on the last Friday of each month so you can come and meet your neighbours. Why not join us on the : you will be most welcome and maybe learn how to play crib! Bring a drink.

The Halloween party was enjoyed by some

of the village children on the 31 October.
Thanks to Jane and helpers.

The Walking group meets next on the **25th November** at 9-50 usually at the pub car park or village hall. See whiteboard for details.

We again plan to celebrate New Year. You don't have to go out and face the crowds and traffic! It's all here in Troston. Bring a drink and a small plate of food to share. Slips will be delivered to remind you.

If you would like to be included in our planning meetings please let me know. I am particularly interested in anyone who wants to play a sport such as table tennis. Over to you!

From Anne Walker

Change to Parish Boundary

St. Edmundsbury Borough Council is reviewing parish boundaries to make sure they reflect community identity and help people to engage in local democracy. We would particularly like to know if the people who live in Longfield Green and Woodside View believe they should remain in Troston or join Honington and Sapiston? These two areas are mostly military housing with a strong RAF identity.

Any change in boundaries will dramatically affect the viability of Troston as a parish in the future as these families represent over 50% of Troston's population. If you have a view please email me:

alex.wilson@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Church News

Christingle in Troston will be early this year on **22nd November at 10:50am** in the village hall as part of the usual café church service. We welcome old and young to this pre-Christmas service where we remember the children who live in difficult circumstances, and the collection for this service will be donated to The Children's Society.

We will not be holding a Gift Day this year. The St Mary's church is in need in many respects, not just financially, and the task of keeping the church open has become too big a burden for the few that attend services. In the near future, therefore, we will be asking all residents of the village if they could offer help, physical or financial, to allow this historic building to remain open, and once again become one that the village may be proud to pass on to future generations.

In the meantime, we will be celebrating Christmas here with a **Carol Service on 20th December at 11:00am** and Christmas Eve **Holy Communion on 24th December at 8:00pm**.

From Jane Harland

School News

Friends of Honington School has been formed to raise money for books and an outdoor learning centre. A Quiz and Chips evening will be on **Friday 13th November** at 7pm. Please come along - £5 a ticket - £20 first prize!

Also, the children's Christmas Production will be in Honington & Sapiston's Village Hall on the **15th December**.

Road safety has always been an issue and new fencing and additional crossing point have been installed. Double yellow-lines are to be painted. Junior Road Safety Officers have also been appointed in Year 6 to help raise awareness in the school – and among certain parents.

Police Report

Vehicle registration plates were stolen from two vehicles at different properties in Troston. There have also been a couple of attempted burglaries in Ixworth and Great Livermere during day-light hours. Unlocked garden sheds are a particular target.

Sadly hare-coursing remains an issue and three double-manned undercover patrol cars have been assigned to focus on the Ixworth area.

Please keep vigilant - any suspicious activity must be reported as soon as possible, with a description or vehicle registration number/ colour if possible. **Dial 999.**

From PCSO Ken Ruston, Ixworth Police Station

Down on the Farm

Off the highway, just a byway
Scattered roads where houses lay,
No village green, pub or shop
Children who bus to school, non stop.
A church up a lane hardly, attended
Cable thefts take hours to be mended.
It has its own distinctive stink
Permeating, which makes one think
In the summer when drying clothes
And pegs are needed instead for a nose.

Do farmers think they rule the roost
And their own economy boost
With no consideration, they plant rape,
Too near sufferers of allergies, to escape.
It's factory farming in nearly every field
Wild flower meadows, giving way to
yield!
Where crops aren't growing there are pigs
Snuffling and snorting busy in their digs.
Council meetings, occasionally take place
Decisions are delayed or are about face.
Everything left in the air to stagnate
Indifference, the common trend, the trait.
No community feeling of pulling together
No tractors offering help in bad weather.
They all keep themselves hidden away
In this rural back water why, do we stay?

From Jan O'Leary

Emergency Plan

Every Parish is expected to have an "emergency plan" to cope with the possibility that the normal 999 service, Suffolk District Council services or public utility companies, are delayed for some reason. The idea is to know who can help relatively rapidly with incidents like heavy snow falls, high-winds blowing down trees across minor roads etc.

In case of an emergency your first action should be to contact the official emergency services by **dialling 999** and/or the relevant service provider eg electric power or water company.

Only then, on the rare occasions they tell you there will be a significant delay, should you notify a member of the Parish Clerk who will attempt to mobilise the resources we have in our small community. Our insurance policy will cover their efforts!

Useful Contacts:

Duty Emergency Officer	01473 433 444
St.Eds Help Line	01284 763 233
Joint Services Unit	07776 481 787
	07920 466 340
Ixworth Surgery	01359 230 252
Doctors Out of Hours	0300 130 3066
NHS Direct	0845 4647
West Suffolk Hospital	01284 713 000
Electricity	0800 783 8838
Water	0800 145 145
Gas	0800 111 999
Flood	08459 881 188
Highways	08456 066 067
Environment	0800 807 060
Community Police	01284 774 100
Airbase Guard Room	01359 268 296
Airbase Comms Room	01359 237 520
Adult Care Service	0808 800 4005
Children Care Service	08456 066 067
Vetnary	01284 747 000

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 19.30 4th January 2016. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any issues you would like raised at the Meeting.

From Linda Harley, Parish Clerk, 01284 787 777

